

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 10, 2017

*Background notes for Monday, February 13th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

SUMMER PREPARATION

Work is underway on preparing for the summer program season. Locations have been booked for the major programs, and this month we will begin the process of rehiring returning staff. When the Assistant Director returns, she will start the interview process for new hires. Arts in the Parks and Children's Theatre programs are being researched and booked.

HIGH SCHOOL WALL

In order to alleviate a drainage problem at the back of the High School tennis courts and an adjacent property on Webster Street, and retaining wall was built, with fencing, over the past month. The contractor was able to get the work done with the mild winter weather during January and early February. We were fortunate to work with the contractor from the Newman/Eastman project, and this company made sure that there was no impact on the tennis courts. There was minor rutting on the small multi-purpose field which will be corrected so it is ready for use in April.

BEAVERS

There has been an issue with beavers at the Reservoir this year. In addition to damaging or cutting down trees, they block the stream of water causing the water level of the Reservoir to rise, which is a concern for the abutting homes. We have met with a specialist who has created a by-pass for the water that allows the beavers to remain on site, but not feel the need to stop the flow of water. <http://www.beaversolutions.com/beaver-problem-beaver-control/beaver-proof-culvert-blocked-drain/> A similar set-up is in Wellesley near the Wellesley Country Club. We hope this solution will allow nature and people to co-exist. The number of beavers in the Charles River has increased in recent years, so this is an issue that will continue to be monitored and addressed. This set-up will also help protect the trail around the Reservoir, and the future project.

NEEDHAM ALL-PERSON TRAIL

The design documents are complete for the all-person trail and fishing docks at the Reservoir. The permitting is complete, and the project is preparing to go out to bid in March, so that the actual costs will be known prior to Town Meeting. The majority of funding has been requested through CPA, with the portion that includes closing down the two former wells funded through the Water Enterprise Fund.

CRICKET FIELD

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen is seeking CPC funds to renovate the two multi-purpose fields at Cricket in Summer 2018. The major purpose is to replace the irrigation system, and secondarily is to replace the surface which has weeds from some invasive pests.

SNOW AND ICE

This week's two Thursday programs were cancelled due to the snow: Adult Volleyball and Senior Walking. All programs were held on Wednesday and Friday.

The ponds have not reached 6" of black ice this winter. The temperatures have fluctuated between below freezing and above freezing. The snow coverage slows down the creation of ice. Even backyard rinks have struggled to have a skate-able surface because of the weather.
